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A-83

Department of State

Brasilia

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September 27, 1971

The Arrest of New York Times Stringer D'ALEMBERT
Jaccoud
Brasilia 963

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Attached is Memorandum of Conversation between Claudio LACOMBE, local attorney and defense counsel for arrested New York Times stringer D'ALEMBERT Jaccoud and Alexander F. WATSON, Consul in Salvador, who was visiting in Brasilia at the time of the meeting, September 16. Mr. Lacombe claimed that the evidence against his client is weak. It consists of 1) a deposition allegedly elicited by torture which says D'Alembert was in an apartment with a Chilean who had come to meet a Brazilian terrorist, and 2) D'Alembert's confession that he had been in the apartment when the Chilean was there. Since the author of the deposition who was the actual go-between for the Chilean and the Brazilian terrorist has been freed, Lacombe believes the real reason D'Alembert is being held is that he furnished information to the New York Times about the murder of former Federal Deputy Rubens PAIVA by security forces. The fact that D'Alembert assisted Paiva's widow might also contribute to his continued detention.

Enclosure as stated.

Declassified
Authority: 43265 By:
Amanda Weimer Date:
05-15-2015

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Lacombe was confident that D'Alembert's defense is strong but fears other arbitrary actions by security forces. D'Alembert in fact has been treated well by his captors.

Comment: The claim that the real reason for D'Alembert's continued detention is his report of the Rubens Paiva case to the New York Times is partially confirmed by E025x1. New York Times correspondent for Brazil, Joe NOVITSKI, also is of this view (Brasilia 963). If the police are not able to develop a stronger case against D'Alembert than that indicated by Lacombe and they insist on keeping D'Alembert in prison, the possibility of the New York Times assuming a more active role in the case will grow.

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Memorandum of Conversation

Subject: The Imprisonment of New York Times Stringer
Correspondent D'Alembert Jaccoud

Participants: Claudio Lacombe, a Brazilian Lawyer
Alexander F. Watson, Consul Bahia

Place & Date: Xadrezinho Restaurant, Brasilia, September 16,
1971

Mr. LACOMBE explained that he had been requested by the Jornal do Brazil to defend its correspondent D'ALEMBERT JACCOUD who was arrested for alleged offenses against the national security. Mr. Lacombe said he took the case only after protesting his lack of criminal experience.

According to Lacombe the reason D'Alembert is still being held is that he supplied information to the New York Times about the murder of former Federal Deputy Rubens PAIVA by security forces. The evidence against D'Alembert is derived from a confession by a lawyer, resident in Brasilia, who was arrested by the security forces with about twenty five other people not long ago. This lawyer claimed he was tortured by the security forces and as a result signed a confession stating that D'Alembert was in the apartment of former Deputy Marcio Moreira ALVES in 1968 with a Chilean who had come to contact a Brazilian bandit or terrorist. The terrorist, named Jose PORFIRIO, had been hiding in Goias since 1963. This lawyer had actually taken the Chilean to meet Porfirio who allegedly had a large arms cache in Goias. Lacombe said the army had known of the cache since 1964 and had it under surveillance.

D'Alembert was arrested and although not tortured, (in fact he has been treated well by his captors), he was interrogated by individuals with black hoods over their heads. After intense interrogation D'Alembert signed a confession stating (1) he had been in Marcio's apartment when the Chilean was there (2) and while there he read a paper written by former governor of Pernambuco, Miguel ARRAES,

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calling for a Popular Front (as opposed to the Frente Ampla then being proposed by Carlos LACERDA and company).

According to Mr. Lacombe, D'Alembert did not remember well the contents of his confession, however its contents were revealed to Lacombe by someone who has access to the prosecuting attorney's file. This file apparently contained only D'Alembert's mild confession, the deposition of the tortured lawyer and a recommendation that charges be dropped against D'Alembert for lack of evidence.

Because the lawyer who was the actual go between for the Chilean and Jose Porfirio had been released, Lacombe concluded that the real reason why D'Alembert is still being held is the information he supplied the New York Times. Perhaps D'Alembert's hospitality to Rubens Paiva's wife, who he allowed to stay in his house for a while, contributed to his continued detention.

Lacombe also reported that Federal Deputy Etelvino LINS (ARENA Pernambuco) saw Army Minister Orlando GEISEL on D'Alembert's behalf and convinced him that D'Alembert was harmless although leftist and should be released. Geisel ordered D'Alembert's release and instructed Col. Paiva CHAVES, his liaison with Congress, to take care of the matter. The Colonel informed a number of congressmen that D'Alembert would be released the next day. However, before Geisel's order reached the proper authorities, the case was removed from the Army's jurisdiction to that of the judiciary which ordered D'Alembert's continued imprisonment. Geisel's order, thus, was ineffective.

Mr. Lacombe is confident of the solidity of D'Alembert's legal defense, but he fears other arbitrary actions by the security forces. He added that D'Alembert had absolutely nothing to do with the arms cache.

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